

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A metering tip capable of aspirating and dispensing a quantity of fluid, said metering tip comprising:
a tapered plastic body including an interior, an upper tip opening and a lower tip opening used for aspirating and dispensing the fluid;
said interior including a plurality of adjacent stepped areas, each of said stepped areas including a sharp diametrical edge ~~for~~ at the junction of the surface of an interior region and the surface of the stepped area, said surfaces being substantially orthogonal and wherein said sharp diametrical edge is capable of latching a fluid meniscus of the fluid and minimizes minimizing oscillation of ~~a dispensed~~ the fluid.
2. (Currently Amended) A metering tip as recited in Claim 1, wherein said ~~tip~~ includes an axial portion interior comprises a cylindrical region having a substantially constant internal diameter.
3. (Currently Amended) A metering tip as recited in Claim 2, wherein said ~~axial portion having the substantially constant diameter~~ cylindrical region includes a read window.
4. (Original) A metering tip as recited in Claim 3, including at least one stepped area disposed above said read window.
5. (Original) A metering tip as recited in Claim 3, wherein said plurality of stepped areas are axially disposed between said tip opening and said read window.

6. (Currently Amended) A metering tip capable of aspirating and dispensing a quantity of fluid, said metering tip comprising:

a tapered plastic body including an interior, an upper tip opening and a distal lower tip opening used for aspirating and dispensing the fluid, said ~~body further including an axial section~~ interior comprising a cylindrical region having a substantially constant internal diameter, at least a portion of said ~~axial-section~~ cylindrical region defining a read window;

said interior including at least one stepped area having a sharp diametrical edge ~~for~~ at the junction of the surface of an interior region and surface of the stepped area, said surfaces being substantially orthogonal and wherein said sharp diametrical edge is capable of latching a fluid meniscus of the fluid and reducing oscillation of a ~~dispensed~~ the fluid, wherein said at least one stepped area is disposed above said read window.

7. (Previously Presented) A metering tip as recited in Claim 6, including at least one stepped area disposed beneath said read window.

8. (Currently Amended) A metering tip as recited in Claim 7, including a plurality of stepped areas disposed between said ~~distal~~ tip opening and said read window.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing ~~fluid~~ oscillation ~~for a dispensed~~ of fluid ~~from~~ in a metering tip, said method including the steps of:

i) aspirating the fluid into a metering tip comprising providing at least one stepped area within the interior of a the metering tip, said at least one stepped area including a sharp diametrical edge at the junction of the surface of an interior region and surface of the stepped area, said surfaces being substantially orthogonal; and

ii) moving a meniscus of the aspirated fluid past the sharp diametrical edge thereby for latching a fluid the meniscus of the fluid passing said stepped area and thereby reducing oscillation of the fluid in the metering tip.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 9, wherein said metering tip includes a read window to permit optical readings of ~~a contained~~ aspirated fluid, said method including the further step of disposing said least one stepped area above said read window.

11. (New) A method as recited in Claim 9, wherein said metering tip includes an upper tip opening, a lower tip opening and in which said fluid is aspirated into the lower tip opening of said metering tip during said aspirating step.

12. (New) A method as recited in Claim 10, including the steps of drawing fluid up into the interior of said metering tip and sealing the lower tip opening of said metering tip prior to performing a spectrophotometric read of said fluid through said read window.